

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 6 June 2006

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Robert S.L. Kinder, M.D., Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair)

Not Present: Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside, John Young

Excused Absence: Robert Bernstein, Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., John W. Flynn, John Keimig, Richard Lepine

Other Members: Present: Larry Ross

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Jeffrey Garber (Intern)

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by four in favor and none opposed (3-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Kinder, and Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of South County Hospital Healthcare System for a Certificate of Need to Establish a Diagnostic Cardiac Catheterization Service. Staff noted that objections to this application by Westerly Hospital were re-sent to the Committee.

Mr. Zimmerman, Director of Research at Spectrum Research Services, Inc., made a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee titled “Assessment of Need for New Diagnostic Cardiac Catheterization Facilities at South County Hospital” (Attached). He

stated that patients admitted to hospitals without cardiac catheterization facilities have outcomes that are at least as good as patients admitted to hospital with cardiac catheterization facilities. He noted that all hospitals except one had a decrease in utilization between 2001 and 2005. Based on his analysis this year there are 2.1 excess cardiac catheterization labs in Rhode Island and in 2010 there will be 0.9 excess cardiac catheterization labs.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that in the past most operations were repeat operations but the presence of drug eluting stents reduced the need for repeat operations. He noted that some contemporary drug therapies work on par with angioplasties. The applicant stated that capacity is a poor way to judge need since occupancy can vary daily. The applicant discussed transportation as an access barrier for South County residents.

Mr. Almon noted that Westerly Hospital wrote letter objecting to the proposal because it will take away patients from Westerly Hospital. The applicant responded that it will not take away patients because they bring very few patients to Westerly Hospital and Westerly Hospital wouldn't be losing patients if the applicant is allowed to establish a diagnostic cardiac catheterization services. Mr. Almon notes that there is presently no state health plan in place.

Staff brought to the attention of the applicant exclusion criteria used by Mr. Zimmerman in the report. Staff asked if the applicant used the

same criteria in their application and asked if applicant were to apply this criteria to their projections if it would the projected utilization numbers go down. The applicant stated that the excluded patients are generally referred to Rhode Island Hospital anyway but if the exclusion criteria were applied strictly the numbers would go down temporarily then increase steadily.

The Chairman asked what effect ultrafast CT scans would have on catheterizations. The applicant responded that most patients are identified using stress testing. The applicant stated that CT scan will add another level of diagnostics that would be more costly than it is worth and will not have a significant effect on the number of catheterizations.

Staff asked if the applicant has come to an agreement with Rhode Island Hospital. The applicant responded that they have met with RIH and are currently going through Lifespan's lawyers. The applicant offered to send staff a copy of the agreement for review.

Staff noted that the applicant has been granted expeditious review for an Orthopedic/Airborne Isolation Infection Unit which is currently undergoing review for acceptability and the application will be presented to the committee shortly.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova